

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 00325 170502Z  
ACTION H-03

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-----027072 170507Z /14

R 170430Z JAN 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6124  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, TW (STRATTON, SAMUEL S., DANIEL, ROBERT M, WON-PAT,  
ANTONIO B.)

1. AS PART OF HIS JANUARY 2-15 ASIA VISIT WHICH  
INCLUDED KOREA, JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES, CODEL STRATTON  
SPENT ONE FULL DAY IN ROC, ARRIVING LATE ON JANUARY 10  
AND DEPARTING EARLY JANUARY 12, DURING WHICH TIME HE  
WAS RECEIVED BY A NUMBER OF ROC, EMBASSY AND U.S. MISSION  
OFFICIALS.

2. DURING AN ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE, CHAIRMAN STRATTON  
STATED THE PURPOSE OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S VISIT AS AN  
ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS  
FROM KOREA, ADDING THAT IN HIS VIEW ANY WITHDRAWAL PROCESS  
SHOULD BE SLOWED DOWN. QUESTIONING MOVED THE THE SPECIFIC  
CONCERNS OF THE ROC: U.S.-PRC NORMALIZATION AND SALE  
OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ROC. CHAIRMAN STRATTON'S  
RESPONSE WAS THAT THERE IS OVERWHELMING SENTIMENT  
IN THE CONGRESS FOR CONTINUED RELATIONS WITH ROC ON  
THE SAME BASIS AS IN THE PAST, AND THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY  
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IN FAVOR OF SELLING MILITARY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING F-16  
FIGHTERS, TO THE ROC. COMMENTS WERE PROMINENTLY FEATURED  
IN LOCAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF THE VISIT, ALL OF WHICH  
CONSTITUTED A VERY FAVORABLE PRESS.

3. ON JANUARY 11, AFTER A BREAKFAST MEETING WITH  
DR. KU CHENG-KANG, CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD ANTI-COMMUNIST

LEAGUE, AND A CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR, CODEL STRATTON CALLED ON THE PREMIER, MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ON THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF. A MEETING WITH KEY MISSION PERSONNEL WAS ALSO HELD IN THE AFTERNOON. AT ALL SESSIONS, CHAIRMAN STRATTON REITERATED THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S CONCERN THAT WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM KOREA COULD INCREASE THE RISK OF WAR AND POSSIBLY DESTABILIZE THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE PACIFIC AREA.

4. DURING MEETINGS WITH BOTH DEFENSE MINISTER KAO KUEI-YUAN AND ADMIRAL SOONG CHANG-CHIH, CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, CHAIRMAN STRATTON ASKED WHAT MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR ROC DEFENSE. BOTH ANSWERED THAT SINCE ROC DEFENSIVE STRATEGY EMPHASIZES AIR DEFENSE, WITH THE NAVY AND ARMY IN SECONDARY ROLES, THE ROC IS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING HIGH PERFORMANCE FIGHTERS AND AIR DEFENSE MISSILES FROM THE U.S. RESPONDING TO THE CODEL'S QUESTION WHETHER THE GROC HAD BEEN REFUSED F-16'S, THE MAAG CHIEF EXPLAINED THAT THE GROC HAD ONLY REQUESTED PERFORMANCE DATA ON THE F-16 BUT TO DATE THAT HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON. A SIMILAR RESPONSE WAS GIVEN BY THE ROC CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF. PREMIER CHIANG EMPHASIZED, IN DISCUSSION ON THIS SAME SUBJECT, THAT THE GROC WAS SEEKING ONLY DEFENSIVE WEAPONS AND WEAPONS FOR DETERRENCE; HE BELIEVED THE GROC REQUESTS WERE IN HARMONY WITH US POLICY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DURING THE MEETING WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SHEN CHANG-HUAN, CODEL STRATTON WAS TOLD THAT A U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA WOULD REPRESENT A DEFINITE DESTABILIZATION OF U.S. POLICY IN THE PACIFIC, AND THAT NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-MAINLAND RELATIONS WOULD HAVE A SIMILAR EFFECT. CHAIRMAN STRATTON SUPPORTED THIS VIEW. ON THE OTHER HAND, PREMIER CHIANG, IN RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN'S QUESTION, SAID WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM KOREA WOULD NOT BE DAMAGING IF THE COMPENSATORY PACKAGE WAS PROVIDED BY THE U.S. AND IF THE U.S. MOVE WAS CAREFULLY COORDINATED WITH SOUTH KOREA.

5. THE AMBASSADOR, IN ADDITION TO AN EARLY PRIVATE MEETING WITH CODEL STRATTON AND ACCOMPANYING THE CODEL ON THE CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, HOSTED A JOINT LUNCH AT THE RESIDENCE FOR BOTH CODEL STRATTON AND CODEL STONE. THIS LUNCHEON WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY A MIX OF ROC OFFICIALS FROM DEFENSE, ECONOMIC, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND LEGISLATIVE CIRCLES. UNGER

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